

BLM NEWS



NEW MEXICO OKLAHOMA TEXAS KANSAS

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BLM Opens New Wild Horse Holding Facilities

Throughout the month of February, two new long-term holding facilities for wild horses are to be opened by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Cassody, Kansas and Catoosa, Oklahoma. The new holding facilities, which will provide more grazing space at lower cost than traditional corrals, will house animals gathered by the BLM from the Western rangelands while they are waiting adoption. The facilities will be operated by private ranches under contract with the BLM.

“ The BLM is responsible for maintaining the health of public land and managing wild horses and burros on BLM-administered public rangeland. These new long-term holding facilities will help to achieve a balance between healthy rangeland and healthy animals,” said New Mexico State BLM Director Michelle Chávez.

Wild horses and burros compete with wildlife and domestic livestock for forage on the western rangelands administered by the BLM. Currently, there are over 48,000 wild horses and burros on public rangeland, which can sustain about 27,400 animals. The BLM plans to gather and place in adoption an increasing number of animals annually so as to reach healthy herd sizes by 2005. Since the wild horse and burro adoption program began in the 1970's, the BLM has placed in adoption more than 170,000 animals.

In BLM's ongoing effort to offer animals for adoption to the general public, adoptions will be held in Hutchinson, Kansas on March 30-31, Kellyville, Oklahoma(near Tulsa) on April 20-21 and Topeka, Kansas on May 4-5. In addition, the BLM holds monthly adoptions at the Pauls Valley Adoption Center. To learn more about the wild horse and burro program or request an adoption application, visit www.wildhorseandburro.blm.gov or call 1-866-4MUSTANGS.

The BLM, an agency of the U.S. Department of the Interior, manages more land – 264 million acres – than any other Federal agency. Most of this public land is located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM, also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate through the nation. The agency preserves open space by managing the public lands for multiple uses, including outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, and mining, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources found on the public lands.

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